S-C 1100 INQUIRY DISPLAY SYSTEM

STROMBERG-CARLSON

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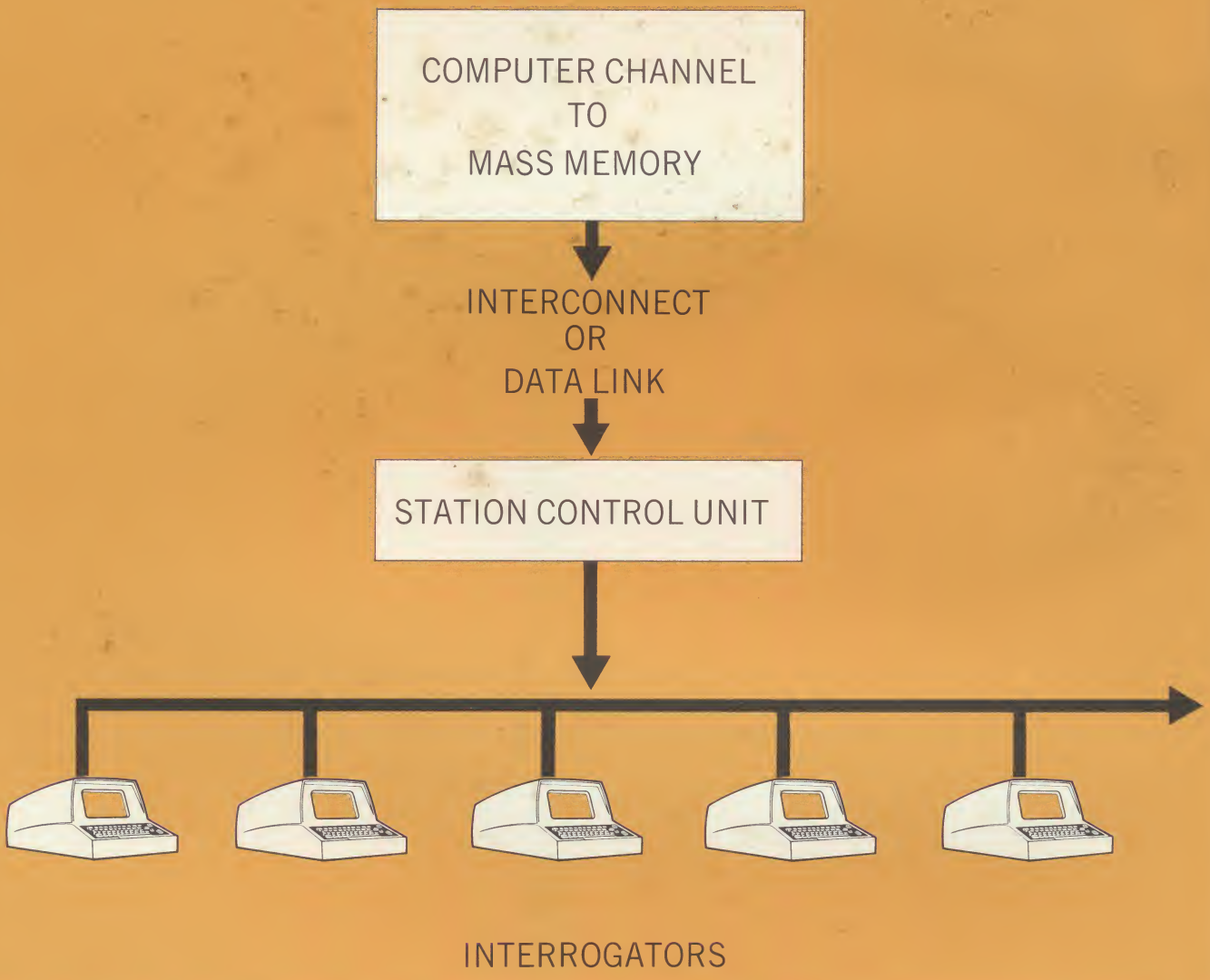
SYSTEM ELEMENTS



WHAT IS THE S-C 1100? The S-C 1100 is an electronic system providing instantaneous, two-way communication from multiple stations to a centralized computer memory. The techniques employed have been proven in equipment designed and produced by Stromberg-Carlson and installed in major display systems for the military, government and industry.

The capability of answering inquiries rapidly with the S-C 1100 results in better budget and inventory control, increased computer efficiency, reduction in voice communications, manpower savings, greater personnel efficiency and better morale because of faster availability of information.

Through the system's time-sharing method, the S-C 1100 makes possible central file efficiency. It provides immediate access to stored records by dozens of operators. The processing of multiple requests is possible because of high-speed queuing with a maximum character rate of 25,000 per second. High speed queuing permits more personnel—using fewer units—to read information from stored records or to add data to existing records. The S-C 1100 works with any present random access computer, and can be incorporated in future systems, thus minimizing change—over problems yet providing maximum results now.

APPLICATIONS

The S-C 1100 Inquiry Display System is designed for organizations which must make a large volume of inquiries and entries into computer-stored records.

Banks use S-C 1100 multiple interrogator units to determine account balances for customers and to make instantaneous deposit, withdrawal, or loan payment entries. Public utilities of all kinds use the system to provide rapid account information for large numbers of customers.

Telephone operators at S-C 1100 inquiry stations provide answers to over a thousand inquiries daily in rapid order. Personnel can communicate directly with a centrally located computer memory to receive instantaneous data on large numbers of accounts; to add new account data to the computer files: to update, modify or delete stored data; or to add information to the message from the computer, verify visually, then re-transmit the entire new communication.

Insurance companies install the system to implement their record retrieval. This fast answer system significantly reduces the time lag in servicing inquiries from insurance policyholders, claimants, beneficiaries, agents, physicians, hospitals and field offices.

The S-C 1100 system is also applicable to inventory scheduling, financial reporting, freight and traffic scheduling, management reporting, order processing, and transportation reservations. And in one type of operation, it can be used to ask a computer memory which frame of microfilm contains a given document. The film is then viewed on a standard film viewer/printer.

HOW THE S-C 1100 WORKS

The S-C 1100 is "human engineered" to provide the simplest, most efficient link available between the human-operator and the computer. No schooling or lengthy (and costly) instruction period is necessary. Within a few minutes the average office worker can learn to operate the keyboard of the S-C 1100 with optimum efficiency. This also means that individual units can serve *groups* of operators where the office arrangement permits.

The main element of the S-C 1100 is the desk-top interrogator, which looks like a compact adding machine with a small TV screen. In a typical system, an operator receives an inquiry concerning an account or other record by phone. The operator depresses the "clear" button on the interrogator and uses the keyboard to enter the account number.

The operator also selects and enters the appropriate computer code and is able to visually verify the complete entry on the cathode-ray tube screen. By depressing the "transmit" bar, the operator sends the message to the computer in a fraction of a second. The computer immediately returns the requested data for display on the interrogator screen.

Entries to records may also be made with the S-C 1100 system. The operator enters the record number, the data to be entered, and the function code which tells the computer the type of entry to be initiated. When transmitted by the operator, the new information is added to the stored record automatically.

TYPICAL SYSTEM

The S-C 1100 Inquiry Display System consists of three major elements:

1. *Multiple Interrogators:* Each interrogator has an alphanumeric entry keyboard and a tube screen displaying a maximum of 500 characters at a time. Up to 18 desk-top interrogators may be handled by a single station control unit.

2. *Station Control Unit:* This unit consists of clocking, timing, counting, character encoding and decoding, and multiplexing circuits. Up to 24 local or remote station control units may be handled by one computer interconnect or data link.

3. *Interconnect or Data Link:* This element provides compatibility between the S-C 1100 system and the central computer. Where available, the computer's high speed communications channels can be used. When an interconnect unit is installed to interface the S-C 1100 with the specific computer, it replaces the computer channel synchronizer. The interconnect can often save computer time by handling certain program functions such as assembling input data into words. Also, where multiple station control units are used, an interconnect can save computer communications channels.

MAXIMUM FLEXIBILITY

The S-C 1100 can improve your present EDP system with minimal change and expense and it can be incorporated in later generation systems as they become available. The general purpose system is versatile enough to offer maximum flexibility in processing procedures, content of data processed, equipment configurations and terminal equipment.

The S-C 1100 system includes buffers to save valuable computer time. For example, buffers provide flicker-free display by repeating the message on the screen without requiring computer reiteration. Also, instead of requiring the computer to wait while a message is composed, the buffers hold the message until it is complete and then permit transmission to the computer in a rapid "burst."

The system operates at high speeds over direct cables or telephone circuits. An absolute minimum number of restrictions are placed on the programmer and the system planner.

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